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The Director of Central Intelligence  
Washington, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

NIC 01135-85  
1 March 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, History Staff

FROM: Hal Ford  
National Intelligence Officer At Large

SUBJECT: Possible Declassification of Certain 1964 CIA Documents  
Concerning Vietnam

1. [ ] NIC's Executive Officer, informs me that the DDI/IRO has declassified three of the attached documents (Nos. 13, 14, and 15), subject to my concurrence. I find no items in these three documents which would raise problems relating to the protection of intelligence sources and methods, but as outlined below I recommend that these documents not be declassified until the Department of State has certified that there is nothing in them inappropriate to declassification.

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2. I have particular interest in these three documents because I myself wrote them in 1964. At the time I was serving as the chairman of a CIA-DIA-INR intelligence panel which was part of an interagency policy group under the direction of William P. Bundy, then Assistant Secretary of State (Far East); that group had been commissioned by the President to formulate and examine the feasibility of the US undertaking certain then major new escalatory steps against North Vietnam. The Pentagon Papers (1971) quotes from certain passages of these 1964 documents, and the Bundy group's undertakings have been mentioned publicly by David Halberstam, Stanley Karnow, and other authors. To my knowledge, however, these three documents have never been formally declassified. (If they are, I would have an interest in being so notified promptly, so that I might have a shot at submitting a brief accompanying article for possible publication, before some lucky bystander in public life profits from this windfall.)

3. As for the appropriateness of the three documents for declassification, State should pass judgment on the following:

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- #13, pp. 17-18; and #15, pp. 14-15. These two documents are the same exercise: earlier draft and final draft. The pages noted discuss adversary US relations with China, and estimate certain Soviet reactions to US actions. The other pp. of these two documents -- #13, pp. 1-16; and #15, pp. 1-13 -- do not in my view raise any questions of appropriateness, and hence seem OK for declassification.
- #14. Here the entire document -- on the reactions of China, the USSR, and others to certain US steps -- raises questions of appropriateness, and should be so reviewed by State.



Hal Ford

Attachments:  
As stated

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Date

## ROUTING AND TRANSMITTAL SLIP

26 Feb 85

TO: (Name, office symbol, room number,  
building, Agency/Post)

Initials

Date

1.  EO/NIC

2.

3.

4.

5.

Action	File	Note and Return
Approval	For Clearance	Per Conversation
As Requested	For Correction	Prepare Reply
Circulate	For Your Information	See Me
Comment	Investigate	Signature
Coordination	Justify	

## REMARKS

Per our conversation of yesterday afternoon, I am returning the package to you for additional review of documents #13, 14, and 15. The DDI/IRO has declassified these three documents pending your concurrence.

History Assistant

DO NOT use this form as a RECORD of approvals, concurrences, disposals, clearances, and similar actions

FROM: (Name, org. symbol, Agency/Post)

Room No.—Bldg.

316 AMES

Phone No

DCI/HS

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The Director of Central Intelligence  
Washington, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

NIC 00967-85  
22 February 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. J. Kenneth McDonald  
Chief, History Staff

THROUGH:   
Top Secret Control Officer, DDI

FROM:   
Executive Officer, NIC

SUBJECT: Review and Release of CIA Documents on Mr. Vincent  
Demma, Center of Military History

As requested in your memo of 12 February 1985, the following  
CIA-originated documents have been reviewed, by Mr. Harold Ford, NIO/At  
Large, and determined to be releasable at their present classification to  
the Center of Military History for Mr. Demma's use.

HS/CMH/7, 11 Jun 64 (S)  
HS/CMH/8, 9 Jun 64 (S)  
HS/CMH/9, undated (TS)  
HS/CMH/12, 2 Jan 64 (TS)  
HS/CMH/13, 13 Nov 64 (TS)  
HS/CMH/14, 16 Nov 64 (TS)  
HS/CMH/15, 24 Nov 64 (TS)  
HS/CMH/23, 23 Jan 64 (TS)

Attachments:  
As stated

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THIS MEMO IS UNCLASSIFIED WHEN  
SEPARATED FROM ATTACHED DOCUMENTS

CL BY SIGNER  
DECL OADR

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12 February 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR:

[redacted]  
Executive Officer, NIC

THROUGH:

[redacted]  
Top Secret Control Officer, DDI

FROM:

J. Kenneth McDonald  
Chief, History Staff

SUBJECT:

Review and Release of CIA Documents to Mr. Vincent  
Demma, Center of Military History

1. Mr. Vincent Demma, an official historian with the Army's Center of Military History, has asked that he be permitted to use the following CIA-originated documents from the Johnson Library in preparing an official Army history on the Vietnam War:

HS/CMH/7, 11 Jun 64 (S)  
HS/CMH/8, 9 Jun 64 (S)  
HS/CMH/9, undated (TS)  
HS/CMH/12, 2 Jan 64 (TS)  
HS/CMH/13, 13 Nov 64 (TS)  
HS/CMH/14, 16 Nov 64 (TS)  
HS/CMH/15, 24 Nov 64 (TS)  
HS/CMH/23, 23 Jan 64 (TS)

I would be grateful if you would review these documents and decide whether they can be released (at their present classification, unless you wish to sanitize or downgrade them) to the Center of Military History for Mr. Demma's use.

This memo is UNCLASSIFIED  
when separated from  
attached documents.

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2. Mr. Demma and the Center of Military History have agreed to the attached "CIA Records Access Policy," which requires further CIA review before any of the classified material you may now release to them can be declassified, downgraded, or published.

3. I would be grateful if you would return these documents with your determination to the DCI History Staff, Room 316 Ames.

[Redacted Signature]

J. Kenneth McDonald

Attachments

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